

life in North Carolina, and to ask the United States military what happens when a woman alleges sexual harassment, or, in this instance, rape. I think it is imperative that we have a system and a response that was not given to this young woman.

Some years ago, the Women's Caucus, Republicans and Democrats, raised the question of sexual harassment that was permeating our United States military. They are too good for this and this must stop. I am saddened by her loss. I believe it could have been avoided. We need a response, and we need it now.

PRESIDENT MUST WORK WITH CONGRESS TO HELP WORKING AMERICANS

(Ms. SHEA-PORTER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. SHEA-PORTER. Madam Speaker, for months now, economic experts have been warning that our economy was in trouble. After some disturbing signs about job losses in this country, the President finally came out and made some comments saying that there were "mixed signals" about the state of the economy.

These are not mixed signals about the state of the economy, and Americans understand. Americans know they are having more trouble paying for their mortgages, having trouble paying for their heating bills, having trouble paying for their gas, having trouble paying for all the costs of living in America right now.

The President should not continue to call these signs "mixed signals," should acknowledge that we have some problems, and work in a bipartisan manner to straighten this out.

He might also wonder what impact the war in Iraq is having as we pour billions of dollars into Iraq and take the money from our own people and then borrow the money to continue the fight in Iraq. He might ask himself if this, too, is hurting our economy.

I ask the President to work with us to find answers for America's working people.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mrs. JONES of Ohio). Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, the Chair will postpone further proceedings today on motions to suspend the rules on which a recorded vote or the yeas and nays are ordered or on which the vote is objected to under clause 6 of rule XX.

Recorded votes on postponed questions will be taken later today.

CONDEMNING ASSASSINATION OF FORMER PAKISTANI PRIME MINISTER BENAZIR BHUTTO AND REAFFIRMING COMMITMENT OF UNITED STATES TO ASSIST PEOPLE OF PAKISTAN

Mr. ACKERMAN. Madam Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the resolution (H. Res. 912) condemning the assassination of former Pakistani Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto and reaffirming the commitment of the United States to assist the people of Pakistan in combating terrorist activity and promoting a free and democratic Pakistan.

The Clerk read the title of the resolution.

The text of the resolution is as follows:

H. RES. 912

Whereas on December 27, 2007, former Pakistani Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto was assassinated while departing a peaceful election rally;

Whereas the attack on Ms. Bhutto also killed some 20 other innocent bystanders and fellow Muslims;

Whereas Ms. Bhutto had returned to Pakistan in October 2007 after 8 years of self-imposed exile for the stated purpose of bringing democracy and the voice of moderation back to Pakistan;

Whereas Pakistan has struggled historically in its path toward a secure and stable democracy, having been ruled by unelected leaders for 34 out of 60 years of Pakistan's history;

Whereas Pakistan has been plagued by over 40 suicide attacks, claiming over 700 lives in 2007;

Whereas the Federally Administered Tribal Areas in Pakistan are being used by al Qaeda, the Taliban, and other terrorist and extremist elements to regroup, retrain, and recruit for future attacks in Afghanistan and Pakistan;

Whereas Pakistan is a nuclear-armed nation, adding another level of complexity to Pakistan's deteriorating security situation and raising the specter of nuclear arms falling into the hands of extremists in the future;

Whereas the international community has a vital interest in supporting a free, stable, and secure Pakistan so as to stem the rise of extremism in the region, prevent global acts of terrorism originating in Pakistan, and support the movement toward stable political institutions and democratic values and the rule of law;

Whereas in the past 5 years, the United States has provided over \$5,000,000,000 in assistance to Pakistan and an additional \$5,000,000,000 to reimburse Pakistan for its expenses incurred in combating terrorism;

Whereas a significant portion of United States assistance and reimbursements have gone to support Pakistani military operations in the Pakistan-Afghanistan border region, counterterrorism operations in the Federally Administered Tribal Areas in Pakistan and to increase Pakistan's counterterrorism and military capability;

Whereas there is an acute need for additional assistance from the United States and other countries to support and promote Pakistan's economic, social, and political development; and

Whereas the tragic death of Ms. Bhutto creates even greater uncertainty in an unstable region: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the House of Representatives—

(1) condemns in the strongest terms the assassination of former Pakistani Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto and expresses its condolences to her family and the families of all those who were killed or injured in the attack of December 27, 2007;

(2) supports efforts by Pakistan to expeditiously bring to justice those who have perpetrated this cruel and cowardly attack;

(3) welcomes the provision of assistance by the Government of the United Kingdom of expertise to the Government of Pakistan in the conduct of the investigation of the attack;

(4) commends the Government of Pakistan for accepting such assistance and urges that government to allow experts from the United Kingdom to participate in such investigation in the fullest possible manner;

(5) urges the people and Government of Pakistan to be relentless in its pursuit of a democratically-elected government, including the holding of free and fair elections at the earliest possible opportunity;

(6) expresses its support for the freedom of the media, the ability of political parties to express their views without restriction, and the independence of the judiciary in Pakistan; and

(7) reaffirms the commitment of the United States to assist the people of Pakistan in combating terrorist activity and promoting a free and democratic Pakistan.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from New York (Mr. ACKERMAN) and the gentlewoman from Florida (Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from New York.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. ACKERMAN. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on H. Res. 912.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from New York?

There was no objection.

Mr. ACKERMAN. Madam Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Madam Speaker, on December 27, former Prime Minister of Pakistan Benazir Bhutto was assassinated in Rawalpindi as she left a peaceful political rally. In addition, 20 of her supporters were killed in a suicide bomb blast and Pakistan was wracked by violence and instability in the immediate aftermath.

Former Prime Minister Bhutto had returned to Pakistan in October after several years in exile in an attempt to bring Pakistan back to the democratic fold and inject the voice of moderation into the Pakistani parliamentary elections. Her killers cut short that effort in an attack that was one of 40 suicide bombings that killed 700 people in Pakistan during 2007.

Ms. Bhutto's life was marked by tragedy that played out on Pakistan's public stage. Her father was hung after a questionable trial. Her brother was murdered. As Prime Minister, she was twice removed from office by the army amid allegations of corruption and wound up in self-imposed exile. Yet she